

Advent 2023

Dear St. John of God
Parishioners and Friends,

We are midway through
***Advent – the time of
hopeful anticipation.***

But this year the state of our
world, our country and the
financial issues we face at
St. John of God may make it
difficult to hope for a future
of light and peace.



If you've been to St. John of
God recently or if you've read the email we sent out about the financial
health of the parish (see details here: www.sjog.net/2023finance.pdf, you
know that our financial recovery from the impact of the Covid pandemic is
still slow. Our plan to overcome this challenge is simple but not easy:
***attract new parishioners who will support the parish
financially and engage in our ministry.***

If all of this sounds dire, that's because it is. Dire, but not hopeless. We
hope because hope is part of our spiritual DNA as Catholics. We look for
signs of hope as we work to rebuild our worship community and to meet the
spiritual needs of parishioners and UCSF patients, staff and students now
and into the future. Here's ***two signs of hope*** we see now at St. John of
God:

- Thanks to Father Kabipi, a large community of ***African
immigrant Catholics*** has joined us from time to time for Mass.
They will now be coming on a more regular schedule, filling the
chapel with their lively music and infectious enthusiasm.
- UCSF has informed us we may resume ***our ministry of lay
volunteers bringing communion to patients and their
families*** at the hospital. This was suspended at the start of the
pandemic. We have already recruited a dozen or so new
volunteers!

As people of faith we know the importance of hope. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” [Romans 12:12] You have been generous in the past, so we dare to hope and pray that you will consider making a special gift now toward our year-end campaign. Your support will mean more than ever this year.



Please think about how much you can give and pray about it first. Then scan the QR code to the left or go to www.sjog.net/appeal to make your gift online. You may also ***write a check*** and mail it to St. John of God, 1290 -5th Avenue, SF, CA 94122. Write “2023 Year-End Appeal” in the memo line.

Our very best wishes to you and those you love for a blessed Christmas and a year of peace and hope in 2024.

Bill Becker, Susan Fox, Dave Freitas, Bob Gajewski, Father Narcis Kabipi
St. John of God Finance Committee

PS We’d love to see you at St. John of God for Christmas. ***Our Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Mass schedule*** is as follows:
December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent Mass at 10:30 AM; Christmas Eve Mass starts with Carols at 6 PM. Christmas Day Masses: 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM. Come and pray with us!

